jute units in the small scale sector in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar till March, 1991; and

(b) the assistance being provided by the Government to revive these industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) As per the latest position available with Reserve Bank of India(RBI) total number of 19,497 textile units and 132 jute units in small scale sector are sick at the end of December, 1988. State-wise data of sick textile and jute units are reportedly not being maintained centrally.

(b) Steps taken to revive these industries include issuance of detailed guidelines by RBI to all Scheduled Commercial Banks in regard to rehabilitation of sick SSI Units, viability norms, incipient sickness, as also reliefs and concessions from banks/financial institutions for implementation of rehabilitation package in the case of potentially viable sick units. Besides, on the advice of Govt. of India, RBI has set up a state level, Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIICs) in all states under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Industries Deptt. for working out a rehabilitation package for revival of viable sick small scale units.

[English]

Valuable Articles of Former Rulers

4179. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether valuable ornaments and articles of the former Indian rulers are being smuggled out of the country ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to preserve them in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) and (b) Intelligence available with Customs authorities do not indicate smuggling of ornaments and articles of former Indian rulers out of the country. However, three vintage cars, sold by the erstwhile princely family of Nabha to another Indian, were recently exported to the United Kingdom with the help of forged documents.

The Customs department remains alert against smuggling by constant updating and sharing of intelligence and new modus operandi, amongst the enforcement agencies, including international organisations.

Registration of Companies

4180. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFARIS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp rise in the registration of companies under the Companies Act, 1956 this